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Assembly California Legislature

BRUCE THOMPSON
ASSEMBLYMAN, SIXTY-SIXTH DISTRICT
ASSISTANT REPUBLICAN LEADER

99-20

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
BUDGET
ELECTIONS, REAPPORTIONMENT
& CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS
WATER, PARKS, &
WILDLIFE

SUBCOMMITTEES:
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 2 ON
EDUCATION FINANCE



January 27, 1999

Lester Snow, Exec. Dir.
CALFED
1416 Ninth St.
Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: CALFED PHASE II REPORT

Dear Mr. Snow:

I have a number of comments and concerns regarding CALFED's Phase II Report, my comments are as follows:

- * I am supportive of CALFED's efforts to date, the process has succeeded in bringing the interested and impacted parties to the table and keeping the focus that we must work together to find solutions to California's water problems.
- * There must be significant progress made in 1999 to fill in the gaps of the preferred alternative, specifically with regard to:
 - * Interim drinking water quality requirements.
 - * New surface & groundwater storage.
 - * Operation of an Environmental Water Account to restore the Bay-Delta ecosystem.
- * A significant step toward a comprehensive, long-term solution for the Bay-Delta system that meets the needs of water-users and the environment was taken with the revised Phase II Report. The report gives all parties a policy and framework for resolving problems that have developed over the past 150 years and is now a threat to the Bay-Delta as a reliable high-quality water supply and a viable healthy ecosystem.
- * I am encouraged that CALFED has taken a balanced approach that emphasizes a variety of water management tools to achieve goals that will benefit all of California. CALFED's concept of continuous improvement in the areas of water quality, reliable water supplies and restoration of the Bay-Delta ecosystem is to be commended.

My concerns are:

- * The need for improved water quality to safeguard public health and meeting future drinking water standards is accomplished in a cost-effective manner and that water recycling projects are expanded.
- * The water supply from the Bay-Delta must be reliable and stable on a year to year basis so that planning for present and future needs can be done in an efficient manner. Since there is a well-defined connection between the ecosystem and a reliable water supply, a healthy ecosystem is necessary in the Bay-Delta.
- * CALFED must offer protections to all Bay-Delta water users that there will be regulatory certainty in how the Bay-Delta system is operated and that they will not suffer any reductions in Delta water supply levels in the future.
- * CALFED must be cognizant that while conservation and recycling programs are extremely important, they do nothing to improve the quality and reliability of water from the Bay-Delta. It is mandatory that construction of new ground-water & surface storage is necessary to meet water quality and reliability objectives, improve the situation for fisheries and establish a water transfer market.
- * CALFED must also recognize that if water quality and other objectives, as outlined in the Phase II Report, are not accomplished then additional measures will be necessary. These measures may include, but not limited to, increased groundwater & surface storage and/or a new canal to carry water around the Delta rather than through it.
- * CALFED has acknowledged urban California's long-term needs in water quality and has set excellent long-term goals; however it is necessary to set interim goals so that achievement of long-term objectives can be adequately measured and action taken if further steps are necessary. Establishing the Delta Drinking Water Council as mentioned in the revised Phase II Report would be necessary and useful.

Thank you for consideration of my comments and concerns as I have outlined in this letter.

Sincerely,


Bruce Thompson